



The Dow Chemical Company
Midland, Michigan 48674

Larkin Laboratory
July 21, 2003

Oscar Hernandez, Director – OPPT Risk Assessment Division
Environmental Protection Agency

Richard Hefter, Chief – HPV Chemicals Branch
Environmental Protection Agency

Chemical Right-to-Know – HPV Challenge Program

Thank you for the comments provided on the HPV Test Plan and Robust Summaries for Diphenyl Oxide (DPO). We have included below the combined response of Solutia Inc. (Solutia) and The Dow Chemical Company (Dow) to the Agency's comments. Further, as requested and referenced in our comments, we have updated the relevant robust summaries. The revised IUCLID document is included as an attachment in this email.

Solutia/Dow Response to EPA Conclusions (noted in *italics*):

1. Physicochemical Properties. Adequate data are available for these endpoints for the purposes of the HPV Challenge Program.

Response: *The sponsors appreciate the Agency's confirmation that the data is adequate.*

2. Environmental Fate. Adequate data are available for photodegradation, stability in water, and fugacity. Testing needs to be conducted for biodegradation.

Response:

The sponsors believe that adequate biodegradation data exists for DPO. To further support our position, we have enhanced the biodegradation robust summary previously provided and added a robust summary for a biodegradation study not previously submitted. While we understand that "Ready Biodegradation" studies are commonly conducted today, it is understood that the HPV guidance issued by EPA (Determining the Adequacy of Existing Data, OPPT, 1/10/99; Draft Guidance on Developing Robust Summaries, OPPT, 11/16/99) expressly cite acceptable use of Ultimate Biodegradation studies from test guidance #302, which includes a modified SCAS test. Therefore, for purposes of the HPV program, the studies summarized should be fully acceptable.

3. Health Effects. All appropriate SIDS-level endpoints have been addressed for the purposes of the HPV Challenge Program. The submitter needs to add information to the robust summaries.



Response: *The sponsors appreciate the confirmation that the health effects data are adequate to meet the SIDS-level endpoints. The robust summaries have been reviewed; all available information on the test substance purity has been included and is noted after the "Results" section within the robust summaries for each of the studies.*

4. Ecological Effects. EPA reserves judgment on the adequacy of the submitted toxicity data on fish, daphnia, and green algae, pending addition of critical information on exposure conditions to the robust summaries.

Response: *The robust summaries for all studies have been revised to provide additional information on exposure conditions and test concentrations.*

We do appreciate the time that you spent in review of our Robust Summaries and Test Plan. We hope that you find that the further information provided in our response above and in the updated robust summaries adequately addressed the issues that were identified.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connie L. Deford".

Industrial Chemicals
Global EH&S Manager
The Dow Chemical Company
Phone: (989-636-6978)
Fax: (989-636-9899)
email address: cldeford@dow.com

For the Diphenyl Oxide Consortium:
Solutia Inc and The Dow Chemical Company

Attachment